

ill-defined line over the eye ; the ear-coverts and sides of the neck, the throat, and all the under-surface, cinnamon brown, a little paler on the throat ; under-surface of the wings, brown, the inner webs of the feathers towards the base, whitish ; under wing-coverts whitish ; margins of the wings below, tinged with cinnamon ; tail below dark brown, ; the tips of the feathers tinged with cinnamon ; bill dark brown paler at the base of the lower mandible ; legs and feet, light brown ; iris, reddish brown. Total length, 5·5 inches ; wing, 3·2 ; tail, 2·6 ; tarsus, 1 inch ; bill, from forehead, 0·65 ; from nostril, 0·4 ; from gape, 0·8.

This species was found at "Kandavu," frequenting the thickets on the sides of the ranges ; it was observed breeding during the months of September and October, making a small round open nest of grasses and rootlets, lined with finer material of the same nature.

The only egg procured was taken from a nest, which contained but one, and placed within four feet of the ground in a low bough. The egg is white, blotched largely at the thicker end with jet black, and large irregular shaped blotches of slate colour, which appear beneath the shell ; a few dots of black are scattered over the thin end ; length, 1 inch ; in breadth, 0·73.

Description of a supposed new species of *Pachycephala*, from New Britain, proposed to be called—

PACHYCEPHALA CITREOGASTER.—*Sp. Nov.*

Adult female.—All the upper parts of the head, wings, and tail, rich brown—inclining to rufous brown on the ear-coverts, sides of the face and neck ; and on the shafts and outer webs of the quills, tips of the upper wing coverts, and scapulars ; inner webs of the quills blackish-brown ; all the under-surface whitish ; the feathers on the throat and upper part of the chest margined with brown giving to these parts a burred appearance ; sides of the breast and the flanks tinged with brown, the abdomen inclining to citron-colour, and deepening into citron-yellow about the vent and under under-tail coverts ; under surface of the wings and tail light

brown ; under wing coverts whitish, outer series tinged with brown ; bill, black ; legs and feet, brown. Total length, 6 inches ; wing, 3·35 ; tail, 2·8 ; tarsus bill from forehead, 0·7 ; from the gape, 0·9 ; from nostril, 0·4 ; width and height at nostril, 0·2.

Hab.—New Britain and adjacent islands.

This description has been taken from a spirit specimen, one of a collection of birds, obtained by Captain Ferguson in 1870, at New Britain and the adjacent Islands.

I exhibit also from the same collection of birds above mentioned, which has now been in spirits over five years, two or three very interesting specimens of parrots, including the beautiful *Lorius chlorocercus*, *Domicella cardinalis* and the miniature *Nasiterna pusio*, the smallest species of parrot known, its total length being about $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

This curious little bird has character which appear to link it, from the form of its feet and bill, with some of the largest of the group of parrots—the Cockatoos (*Cacatuinae*) ; on examination, its sternum however does not show any affinity to that group, but rather places it, from the absence of the furcula, among the *Pezoporinae*. On the whole, its characters are so anomalous that it is difficult to decide what family, among the Psittacidae, it should be most properly placed ; and only by a close comparison and examination of its entire skeleton, can this be decided. I am inclined to think it will eventually be placed in a separate family. The peculiar formation of the tail feathers, the bare shafts of which being produced into spines at the tips, I believe, is not found in any other known genus of parrots. When we know something of the habits of this species it will probably be found to be strictly arboreal, and confined to the dense scrubs, where it could find abundance of food without extensive flight, for which its wings are not adapted ; the contents of the crop appeared to be portions of fruit ; the gizzard contained minute grains of sand and a few seeds, from which one might suppose it to be of terrestrial habits ; the absence of the *os jureculum* would also warrant this opinion.

